

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES  
January 13, 2003**

**PRESENT:** BRIAN MCDONALD, CHAIRMAN; DOUGLAS R. COOK, Co, CHAIRMAN, JONATHAN M. WALLACE, SELECTMAN; THOMAS C. REYNOLDS, JR. SELECTMAN; DAVID BOUGHER, SELECTMAN.

**GUEST:** Frank Campana, Chris Hague, Chief Richards, Evelyn Connor, Pat Myers, William Tiffany, Gene Bilodeau, Denise Dorey, Scott Dinsmore, Frank Bolton, Perry Dowst, Brad Macauley, Chuck Metcalf, Carl Knapp, Sherry Butt Dunham, Steven Richardson, Donald Burke, Mr. Hewey, Tim Maskiel.

The Selectmen's Meeting was held at the Town Office Building. Chairman McDonald commenced the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Chairman McDonald asked that everyone stand for the pledge of allegiance.

**1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Steve Richardson - Mr. Richardson said he wanted to appear tonight and talk about the sign policy for the fields. Mr. Richardson said the sign policy for the fields was talked about two months ago and then everybody forgot about it. Mr. Richardson said he has made every attempt short of documenting to talk to the PARC about their policy. Mr. Richardson had many questions, he has copies of the particular policy and he would be happy to give them to the Selectmen but as the Board has indicated, they are running a little behind, no fault of his he might add. Mr. Richardson said he would like to address this with the Board either today or soon because he and most business owners are anxious or looking forward to putting a sign up in the park or the fields. Mr. Richardson said that no one has gotten back to him and he addressed Selectman Tom Reynolds that he has heard no comments

from him regarding the signs. Mr. Richardson said that he was not going to lay it on the volunteers that work for the park he is going to lay it on Selectman Reynolds lap. Mr. Richardson said he realizes that everyone is busy and has a lot going on but all he asks for is a call. Mr. Richardson gave the Board of Selectmen copies of the policy and told the Board there were a lot of inconsistencies in that policy and that is why he wanted a return call. Mr. Richardson had to go and contact an alternate of the PARC who then in turn again made the necessary calls and told the Vice Chair of that particular committee who is heading up the sign. Mr. Richardson said maybe they better do something else other than heading up the sign because Mr. Richardson said we stand up here and we talk about we don't have money to do this and we don't have money to do that, this is money that we want to pay YOU people to put a sign up and that to Mr. Richardson is extremely offensive. Mr. Richardson said he is glad that he got the whole Board's attention and that was wonderful and that is what he is standing up there and trying to do. Mr. Richardson said he is trying to be kind and he is reaching out and trying to ask, please, he want's a call and he does not believe that is unreasonable. Mr. Richardson said it would be nice once and a while to be informed as the general public should be and not amongst yourselves because this is very important. Mr. Richardson said he can't think of a lot of things that come to this Town that we have a check burning a hole in our pocket trying to give to someone and no one returns his call. Mr. Richardson asked Selectman Reynolds for his comment. Selectman Reynolds told Mr. Richardson that he had no idea that Mr. Richardson contacted PARC and that this was the first he had heard of it. Chairman McDonald asked Mr. Chuck Metcalf if he had any light on this because he sees a logo date of January 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Chuck Metcalf said to some degree the PARC is in limbo and Mr. Richardson has some valid points due to the Director leaving and trying to replace the Director this sign policy took a backseat, got put on the back burner to get a Director in place so that PARC could have a paid position doing all this legwork instead of a volunteer. Mr. Metcalf said the PARC meeting they have posted is scheduled for tomorrow evening and they will try to pick a company that according to that policy, will be the company that would do the signs for the next two years and the January 1<sup>st</sup> deadline was with an anticipation that if there were a lot of companies in Town wanting to put signs on the field that that would be the deadline for the lottery to have the placement of the signs be somewhat not favoritism to this business versus that. Mr. Metcalf said the issue of where the revenue is going to go for the signs is still

somewhat of a sticking point, he knows when he came before the Board a month ago the Board indicated that something would be done where the money would not go into the General Fund but it would go into a special Revenue Fund that is already established. Mr. Metcalf said there are a lot of businesses like Mr. Richardson said out there that want to put a sign on the fence but they also want to know where the money is going to go first. Mr. Metcalf said that seems to be the majority of the sticking point from the companies or the individuals that have contacted Mr. Metcalf directly. Mr. Metcalf said, also as Mr. Richardson said, Mrs. Carol Wilson is more or less heading that up until they get a Director. Mr. Metcalf said that he has been in touch with Mr. Richardson, he called him back on some of those issues, and Mr. Metcalf doesn't know if Mr. Richardson has some further issues that he would like to discuss. Chairman McDonald said you guys (Mr. Richardson & Mr. Metcalf) are not in favor of taking his money and worrying about the details afterwards. Mr. Metcalf said they have his application for the sign. Mr. Richardson said his intent was not to come in front of the Board and talk about himself, even though he is included in this particular thought process. Mr. Richardson said it is to talk about growth, new business to come into Town and talking about all the exciting things we should be talking about instead of the negative things. Mr. Richardson said until we can talk about exciting things we need to get over the simple things. Mr. Richardson said to Mr. Metcalf that he did talk to him and Mr. Metcalf told Mr. Richardson that Mrs. Wilson was heading that up and they did have some phone conversation but Mr. Richardson's concern is that he didn't want to miss the deadline and he did send in his sign and as indicated on the policy January 1<sup>st</sup> there would be a random drawing. Mr. Richardson said that on the bottom of his application on the next page that he had mailed out he had written on the original that the Board is not seeing, he had written to please call him, very important, he has many questions and this was submitted around Christmas time and Mr. Richardson has yet to hear back. Mr. Richardson said he understands that the Board of Selectmen have an overwhelming amount of things going on right now, but once again, it is all how you handle the small things to get to where you are. Mr. Richardson said it will all back up. Mr. Richardson said this policy was recommended by the PARC and adopted by the Board of Selectmen and he thinks that when something is adopted it should be adhered to, or return calls, or if you have someone's application waiting, let's communicate with each other so we can get business into the Town. Mr. Richardson said that

when he had talked a few months ago he had asked and he understood that the PARC were looking to have one person commit to a two year contract to do signs. Mr. Richardson said that his sign was done by a very qualified gentleman, in fact the principal at the Weare Middle School, came over and asked who did Mr. Richardson's sign and found out that gentleman did the Weare Middle School also. Mr. Richardson said he is not suggesting that this man is the best he is just trying to point out that he is as qualified as the next and wanted to give this man the opportunity to also put his name out there and be able to sit in front of PARC, but once again, no one has returned Mr. Richardson's calls so he is unable to go any further. Selectman Reynolds told Mr. Richardson that there was a meeting tomorrow evening and by all means he is assuming the agenda calls for hashing this out, and in the future all he can say to Mr. Richardson and anyone else, if there are any issues, this is the first Selectman Reynolds is hearing of it, so if he doesn't hear of issues he cannot take steps to try and resolve it. Mr. Richardson told Selectman Reynolds that over the past two months that we have talked about this, wouldn't it have occurred to you, by the way, what is going on with the signs and has no one offered on that committee that he has called? Selectman Reynolds said he has not followed up with the PARC on the signs. Mr. Richardson said he would ask that these people would kindly communicate a little better and not just on this matter, to educate everyone. Mr. Richardson said he does not want to think things, he wants to know things. Mr. Richardson said he wants to know by the Board telling him, he wants to understand what is going on in this Town. Mr. Richardson said it is not just 5 people it is more like 8,000 people. Mr. Richardson asked the Board how they wanted to handle this so he can be assured that he will be called back. Mr. Richardson told the Board that the Public Participation this evening was scheduled for 6:30 p.m. and it didn't start until 7:30 p.m. so he apologized for taking longer than the Board anticipated. Mr. Richardson told the Board that he would allow them to read the policy on their own and wants someone to get back to him as soon as possible. Mr. Richardson wants it to go on record that he is not allowed the time by the Board to talk about the policy he submitted. Chairman McDonald said he would set Mr. Richardson up next week for a half hour to talk about the policy. Mr. Richardson told the Board if he was not going to be out of town he would be happy to do that. Chairman McDonald asked Mr. Richardson if he could let the Selectmen's office know by Thursday of this week if he will be available for next Monday evening to talk about this. Mr. Richardson agreed.

Frank Bolton – Mr. Bolton asked the Board about the two Petition Articles the Finance Committee had. Mr. Bolton asked if they could put on separate. Selectman Cook said the Board was going to discuss that. Selectman Cook told Mr. Bolton that he has not had a chance to talk to the Board yet since he spoke with Mr. Bolton. Selectman Cook said he does not think it will be a problem but he couldn't commit to anything until the Board discusses it. Selectman Cook told Mr. Bolton that he would know by the end of the night and Mr. Bolton said he would not be there by the end of the night. Mr. Bolton told the Board the only other option he had was to sent it around for signatures and put it in as a Petition. Mr. Bolton said they had offered these two Petitions and they didn't really anticipate that something would be added. Selectman Cook asked the Board if they were familiar with the amendments that they wanted to make to the Finance Committee Ordinance? Chairman McDonald said yes, the Board looked at them last week and tacked on two. Selectman Cook said one was for cameras to be on and the other was for a conflict of interest. Selectman Cook said the Finance Committee's feeling is they would like to break that out, at lease get the quorum thing on its own because that to them is a no brainier and they do not want to see that go down just because someone might have a problem with the other ones. Mr. Bolton agreed with that. Selectman Cook said he told Mr. Bolton that the Board did that because they got 50 Articles as it was but he said what's another 4 more, so instead of having that one Article it would actually be 4. Selectman Wallace asked what the purpose was for doing that? Selectman Wallace asked if there was a movement out there not to accept those two that the Board put on? Mr. Bolton said there was no movement that he knew. Mr. Bolton said he thinks the issue is we want to do a Petition Article and he does not know why there is a long discussion about the Boards particular amendments. Mr. Bolton said the Finance Committee just has those two and they would like to see them on their own and that is just a request, nothing more. Selectman Bougher said that he was going to make the same request this evening, that they all be put on separately. Selectman Cook said he doesn't have an issue. Selectman Reynolds said it is not even worth discussing to just put it on separately. Selectman Cook said he doesn't want to see the Finance Committee have to go out and get 25 signatures. Mr. Bolton asked the Board if it was safe for him to assume that the Board will put them on separate Articles and the Board said yes.

Evelyn Connor - Mrs. Connor told the Board that Sign up for Officers to Run is the 22<sup>nd</sup> of January to the 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2003 and only the paying positions have to pay \$1.00 and everyone else, just come on in and sign up and do wonderful volunteer.

## 2. PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman McDonald said he would like to open the Public Hearing at 7:42 p.m.

Chairman McDonald said they would get right to the Warrant Articles and the first 20 articles are all Zoning and Planning Boards. Chairman McDonald said he would like to jump right to Article 21. Chairman McDonald said that Article 21 reads, Shall the Town raise and appropriate as an operating budget, not including appropriations by special warrant articles and other appropriations voted separately, the amounts set forth on the budget posted with the warrant or as amended by vote of the first session, for the purposes set forth therein, totaling \$3,228,368.00. Should this article be defeated the operating budget shall be \$3,031,866.00 which is the same as last year, with certain adjustments required by previous action of the Town or by law; or the governing body may hold one special meeting, in accordance with RSA 40:13, X and XVI, to take up the issue of a revised operating budget only.

A) TOWN OFFICERS SALARIES	\$ 32,036
B) TOWN OFFICES EXPENSES	\$ 23,369
C) ELECTIONS & REGISTRATIONS	\$ 9,371
D) TAX COLLECTOR	\$ 72,705
E) FINANCE COMMITTEE	\$ 300
F) ASSESSING OFFICE	\$116,690
G) LEGAL FEES	\$ 55,000
H) FINANCE ADMINISTRATOR	\$ 55,188
I) TOWN CLERKS OFFICE	\$ 81,225
J) SELECTMAN'S OFFICE	\$139,236
K) CABLE COMMITTEE	\$ 4,060
L) TRUSTEES OF TRUST FUNDS	\$ 160
M) LAND USE	\$ 40,824
N) GENERAL GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS	\$ 43,815
O) CEMETERIES	\$ 27,773

P) INSURANCE	\$ 10,577
Q) ADVERTISEMENTS AND DUES	\$ 11,541
R) POLICE DEPARTMENT	\$747,893
S) EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT	\$ 13,100
T) FIRE DEPARTMENT	\$206,444
U) BUILDING DEPT/CODE ENFORCEMENT	\$ 83,763
V) FOREST FIRES	\$ 5,000
W) TOWN MAINT/HIGHWAY DEPT.	\$774,163
X) ROAD RECONSTRUCTION	\$ 2,400
Y) TRANSFER STATION	\$304,819
Z) SEWER DEPARTMENT	\$ 12,968
AA) WATER DEPARTMENT	\$ 2,489
BB) ANIMAL CONTROL	\$ 26,113
CC) HEALTH OFFICER	\$ 4,750
DD) HUMAN SERVICES	\$ 42,989
EE) PARKS AND RECREATION	\$ 48,256
FF) LIBRARY	\$124,109
GG) PATRIOTIC PURPOSES	\$
500	
HH) CONSERVATION COMMISSION	\$ 1,000
II) ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	\$ 5,500
JJ) DEBT SERVICE	\$ 97,242

	TOTAL	\$3,228,368.00
LESS ANTICIPATED REVENUE		<u>\$2,077,063.00</u>
TOTAL TO BE RAISED BY TAX		\$2,151,305.00
DIVIDED BY EVALUATION		374,517
ANTICIPATED TAX IMPACT		<b>\$3.07</b>

Chairman McDonald asked the Finance Committee if they had any input?

Gene Bilodeau of the Finance Committee - Mr. Bilodeau told the Board last week when they discussed the \$2,077,063.00, the Less Anticipated Revenue Tax Rate he wanted to know if that included the \$10,000.00 and the \$40,000.00 that they threw in for Transcriber and the Elderly Wages? Selectman Cook said it should.

Frank Bolton of the Finance Committee - Mr. Bolton said they are meeting Weds. night and he anticipates the first half hour should lay to

rest the school budget. Mr. Bolton said that one big discussion that was relevant to this budget was there any potential for separating the Police Budget? Chairman McDonald said the Finance Committee was discussing removing \$100,000.00 from the Operating Budget and the 2 new hire officers that they are looking for from the voters are \$100,000.00. Mr. Bolton said he just wanted to point that out and no vote was taken. Selectman Cook said the further discussion that the Finance Committee had at the time when they were reviewing the Operating Budget, we were only up \$200,000.00 but then last Monday the Board put in another \$60,000.00 so when the Board went to the Finance Committee meeting last week that was the first that the Finance Committee had heard of the \$60,000.00 so now instead of the Budget being up \$200,000.00 it was up \$260,000.00. Selectman Cook said at first the Finance Committee was okay with maybe shaving \$100,000.00 off and having it only be up \$100,000.00. Selectman Cook said the Finance Committee didn't really get into much discussion about the other \$60,000.00 and Selectman Cook said he thinks even if the Board had taken the \$100,000.00 out that the Finance Committee would not recommend the Operating Budget because it is still up \$160,000.00. Selectman Cook said that is his opinion. Selectman Cook said the way the Finance Committee was talking about it, it wasn't a clear thing, that if the Board took \$100,000.00 out that the Finance Committee would recommend the Operating Budget. Mr. Bolton said that hopefully the meeting Weds. night they can all discuss this. Selectman Cook told Mr. Bolton if he has any problems with any of the Warrant Articles to let the Board know.

Chuck Metcalf of the Finance Committee - Mr. Metcalf said he wanted to point something out with the discussion that just went on. Mr. Metcalf said the \$100,000.00 that was basically the 2 new hires for the Police was not going to be dropped from the request on the Warrant. Mr. Metcalf said the discussion that they had it was going to be put on a separate article, so yes, it's a cut in the Operating Budget but it wasn't potentially cut completely from the Warrant versus the extra \$60,000.00 that you're right, probably the Finance Committee as a whole would like to see some of that come off the table. Mr. Metcalf wanted to make sure it was pointed out that the \$100,000.00 wasn't being asked or suggested to not at least go before the voters on its own and he thinks there is a distinct difference between just dropping it and just having the voters have a separate vote on it.



Frank Campana – Mr. Campana asked the Board if they could tell him right now what the General Fund, unreserved fund balance is? Selectman Wallace said it is between \$900,000.00 and 1 million. Selectman Wallace said he is not really sure but he believed it was over \$900,000.00 and less than 1 million. Chairman McDonald told Mr. Campana that the fund got down this summer to about \$588,000.00 and the numbers have moved this summer and he thinks Selectman Wallace is pretty accurate in the figure he gave. Chairman McDonald told Mr. Campana that the Board voted last week to put that \$200,000.00 for Melvin Valley back into the General Fund. Mr. Campana asked the Board if they were up to approximately \$700,000.00 without that Melvin Valley money? The Board said yes. Mr. Campana asked the Board if they could give him a dollar amount estimate of how much they have taken out of their Operating Budget and put in other separate Articles? Mr. Campana gave an example of Article 22 is \$60,000.00 for a full time Planner which is a separate article. Mr. Campana said he knows that last year the Board felt strongly enough for a Town Planner and the Board actually kept it in the Operating Budget and this year the Board took it out as a separate article. Selectman Wallace asked Mr. Campana if he was asking the Board to compare what the Board asked for or what the Board got? Mr. Campana said, no he is giving the Board an example of Article 21 he would like to know an estimate of dollar amount that the Board has taken out of this and put in separate articles? Selectman Cook said \$25,000.00. Selectman Cook said the Board took the \$25,000.00 from the Assessing Department and put that into a separate Warrant Article to start a Capital Reserve Fund for the Re-evaluation. Selectman Cook told Mr. Campana that he was pretty sure that is all the Board has taken out of last years Operating Budget. Mr. Campana told the Board they did not get what they asked for last year. Selectman Wallace said, right they got a Default Budget. Mr. Campana said within that budget that the Board asked for last year was a Planner but you didn't get your budget. Mr. Campana said that this year the Board took the Planner out as a separate warrant article and again, Mr. Campana said his question was what other dollar amounts has the Board taken out of this Operating Budget and put into separate articles? Selectman Cook said \$25,000.00. Selectman Wallace told Mr. Campana that he did not see how he could compare what the Board asked for last year with this budget they are asking for this year. Mr. Campana said that

he is, he is asking for a comparison of what the Board asked for last year and what the Board is asking for this year. Selectman Wallace said he does not know how to answer that. Selectman Cook told Mr. Campana with all the scenarios he has been trying to figure out, and told Mr. Campana that he always comes up with a new one. Mr. Campana said that his suspect was last year the Board included a Town Planner in your Operating Budget, that was what the Board wished for and this year the Board did not include a Planner in your Operating Budget. Mr. Campana said if he was to include that \$60,000.00 or take it out, he would suspect and say, what are the Selectmen reducing their Operating Budget by to make it a more appealing number for the people to vote on. Chairman McDonald said he knows where Mr. Campana is going and also the big point here is the Board is putting 2 Police Officers in this Budget for \$100,000.00 which he thinks offsets any shell game the Board is trying to shuffle around the mud. Selectman Cook said the Board tried it in the Operating Budget last year and it didn't work. Selectman Cook said one could argue that it was voted down because of the Planner and one could argue it was voted down for some other reason. Selectman Cook said he thinks the consensus tonight was just to put it out on its own Warrant Article if that seems to be a hot topic. Selectman Bougher told Mr. Campana that his feeling to take the Planner out of the Operating Budget was he is a strong believer of SB2 and you must give the people choices so therefore the choice is out there, if you want a Planner you vote on it, if you don't, you don't.

Denise Dorey - Mrs. Dorey said she has to leave and she has a question on Article 50. Mrs. Dorey told the Board that she was remembering about Article 50 the way it was proposed two years ago and that was what her concern was, that not only the \$200,000.00 from the General Fund but we also had appropriated \$28,000.00 from the Town Conservation Commission plus upped the \$72,000.00 from the Town Forest Account. Mrs. Dorey would like the Board to get an opinion from DRA to see if the Board needs to have a Warrant Article on rescinding that appropriation to put it back into their account. Chairman McDonald said the Board contacted DRA and since the land has been sold the need is gone and there is no need to go to the voters for anything. Chairman McDonald said the landowner has struck a deal with the company, there is no potential for this \$200,000.00 to be used toward Melvin Valley because that land purchase is gone. Mrs.

Dorey asked the Board if they were having another Public Hearing Monday, and would this be a preliminary of what next week is going to be re-discussed again? Chairman McDonald said there may be a continuation because we still have Warrant Articles that are due until 5:00 p.m. tomorrow.

Frank Bolton - Mr. Bolton said he would like to talk about the issue that was just discussed. Mr. Bolton said the only thing about the deal that was struck about Melvin Valley, he is not aware of any deal and he thinks it should be checked out. Selectman Wallace told Mr. Bolton that the Board received a letter from Mr. Chris Bolton stating that he the offer was taken off the table and he apologized for saying that the land had been sold. Mr. Bolton said he apologizes and thanked the Board.

Pat Myers, Conservation Commission - Mrs. Myers wanted to have the Board clarify when the \$200,000.00 that had been appropriated by Town Road, when that was put into the General Fund by the Board's vote just recently was that a formality or did that remain undesignated until the Board voted to put it back into the General Fund? Selectman Wallace said he believed it was a formality because as far as the DRA is concerned when you do a warrant like Melvin Valley that there is no possibility of it ever occurring, as far as they are concerned the money is back where it originally was.

Chairman McDonald read Article 22, Shall the Town raise and appropriate the non-transferable sum of \$60,000.00 for the purpose of hiring a full time Planner for the Town to work under the Planning Board, through the Code Enforcement/Building Office, or to take any other action thereto? Selectman Cook said that if anyone is interested in any numbers this represents about .16 cents and just to back up a little bit, if after reading all the Warrant Articles and you're totaling up all the tax impacts remember to add in another 14.5 cents and that takes care of the War Service and Overlay because that is something that is not referred to in the Warrant but it is something that is on the tax rate calculation sheet, so above and beyond this total Warrant is another 14.5 cents. Mr. Gene Bilodeau asked Selectman Cook if he knew what the breakdown on this would be? Selectman Cook told Mr. Gene Bilodeau what is factored in after all the Warrant Articles is gross appropriations then they minus the revenues then they minus

the shared revenues then they add in overlay and war service so rather than giving the individual's, he has added and subtracted and the net figure is 14.5 cents.

Chris Hague- Mrs. Hague wondered if that \$60,000.00 was a whole package, wages, benefits, etc., etc. Selectman Cook said it would be inclusive. Mrs. Hague asked if it was for  $\frac{3}{4}$ 's or the whole year? Selectman Cook said the whole year.

Frank Bolton - Mr. Bolton said he was looking for further information on the Town Planner, the necessity, and how it is going to help the Town. Chairman McDonald said the Board has anticipated putting a pretty in depth mailer this year and he thinks that is the best way for people to look at it. Chairman McDonald said the Board has been trying to explain it a few times, people are still questioning it, and he thinks the safest way is to put it in the form of writing, let them digest it, read it a couple of times and the letter from the Board will explain exactly what is going on. Chairman McDonald said rather than mislead people if it is put in writing it is going to eliminate any doubt and everybody is going to see exactly what the Board is anticipating.

Chuck Metcalf - Mr. Metcalf asked the Board if this was all part of the organization proposal or just totally separate on its own? Chairman McDonald said he thinks that was a piece of the reorganization puzzle. Mr. Metcalf asked the Board if the Minutes Transcriber was part of this? Selectman Cook said it is the Planner only and as far as the Minutes Transcriber, the Board put \$10,000.00 in the Operating Budget. Selectman Cook asked the Finance Committee if they had any recommendation on the Planner part yet and Mr. Metcalf answered, no. Mr. Gene Bilodeau asked the Board about the wording of Article 22, basically the Board is asking for \$60,000.00 the first year, and it will probably be only around \$30,000.00. Selectman Cook said the Board could put up to a certain number because the Board doesn't want to put in \$30,000.00 and then someone say that we are not telling them what the full vote is. Selectman Cook said the full vote is \$60,000.00.

Chairman McDonald said he wanted to take a step back to Article 21 and asked the Finance Committee if they had any further discussion as far as the Police and the Fireman budget? Mr. Gene Bilodeau said that looking back he thought there was some under funding in some of the

Articles and then he thought there was some over funding, it works both ways but he said he wanted to discuss both of them. Selectman Wallace said the Board of Firewards is here and he would like to know what they thought. Mr. Bilodeau said that none of his issues have to do with the Board of Firewards or the Fire Department. Mr. Bilodeau said the Finance Committees main issue was the Police Budget and some other overall budgets. Selectman Wallace asked Mr. Bilodeau if he thought the Finance Committee is pretty much going to keep the Fire Budget intact as it was presented? Mr. Bilodeau said as far as the overall budget the Finance Committee has not really discussed that yet. Selectman Wallace asked him what his feelings were on the Fire Budget? Mr. Metcalf said they all have to speak individually because there has not been a formal vote taken yet on this Article. Mr. Metcalf said that his personal opinion is, he would rather see something give on the Police than the Fire. Selectman Cook said the Board is asking for the Finance Committee's input and after going around and around it was pretty much that the Finance Committee offered up the 2 new Police Officers which happened to total \$100,000.00. Mr. Bilodeau said he was not really bringing up the 2 new Police Officers, what his thought was on the whole situation was that the Police Department seems to be working backwards, the numbers are decreasing as far as personnel goes, they have lost 2 people already, one of their new hire's decided not to happen and they are still looking for 2 officers and there is a potential they may lose two more. Selectman Reynolds said that happens in any organization. Mr. Bilodeau said he understands that but we are still budgeting \$750,000.00 here and yet we went in the last three weeks from 8 people down to 6 and we could be 8 to 4 and we are still budgeting the \$750,000.00. Mr. Bilodeau said there is room here to discuss what the Finance Committee and the Board can do with that payroll and it is all payroll, it has nothing to do with the equipment, computers or anything else you want to talk about. Chairman McDonald asked Mr. Bilodeau if the Board could get him to acknowledge that the Police Department hired 3 officers in 1 day this year. Mr. Bilodeau said no, where are they? Chairman McDonald told Mr. Bilodeau where there are members of the Fire Department at the meeting tonight, it would be best if the Finance Committee would ask any questions they may have this evening. Mr. Bilodeau said his opinion is there is one department between the Fire and Police Departments that need to have an adjustment made and he thinks the Finance Committee is all in favor of adjusting the Police Department to get down to a percentage point. Mr. Bolton said a few months ago that

everybody was doing 3% and the Fire Department comes in at 50% and now that has been kind of adjusted so some of it is in here and some of it is in the Capital Reserve Fund. Mr. Bolton is saying a 50% increase is a big pill to swallow. Mr. Bolton said the other discussion that did come up was possibly instead of hiring one new policeman you can cut the library in half and save .03 cents. Mr. Bolton said he thinks the Fire Department budget should be looked at only because it is such a large increase, and no other reason, not that they don't need it or anything else.

Frank Campana - Mr. Campana asked the Board if they were still talking about Article 21? Chairman McDonald said, yes, we came back to it. Mr. Campana said he has to ask the question again. Mr. Campana said the Board asked the question for a general feeling of the Finance Committee for the Fire Department Budget and he just heard Mr. Bilodeau say he had no problem with the budget because they have taken some of the things out of the budget and put it in separate Warrant Articles. Mr. Bilodeau said, no, he said in the beginning the Fire Department came up with a 4.9% increase in the budget and some of those numbers were moved into separate Warrant Articles and the Finance Committee has already voted on those Warrant Articles and approved all of them or most of them. Mr. Campana said he is correct, they have taking some money out of the Fire Department budget and moved them into separate Warrant Articles. Mr. Campana said he asked the question a lot earlier to the Selectmen, what approximate dollar amount have you taken out of the Operating Budget and moved in a separate Warrant Article and Selectman Cook told him only \$25,000.00. Mr. Campana said now he hears from the Finance Committee member that the Fire Department came in with a high dollar amount and they have taken some of those dollar amounts and have put them into a separate Warrant Article. Selectman Wallace asked Mr. Campana earlier what budget he was talking about and Selectman Wallace said that Mr. Campana did not make it clear as to what budget he was talking about. Mr. Campana asked Selectman Wallace if he could restate his question so Selectman Wallace would fully understand it because Mr. Campana told Selectman Wallace that he has a very tactful way of twisting things. Selectman Wallace said he did not twist anything. Mr. Campana said his question was, and Selectman Wallace interrupted Mr. Campana and said he specifically asked Mr. Campana what budget he was talking about. Selectman

Wallace said, "Did I ask Mr. Campana that?" The answer was, "Yes, you did," from the other Selectmen. Mr. Campana said to Selectman Wallace, Article 21 of which the Board handed out tonight the bottom line, what dollar figures have you taken out of the bottom line of Article 21 and put into separate Warrant Articles? Selectman Wallace said compared to what? Mr. Campana said not compared to anything, he wants to know what you have taken out. Mr. Campana said he has heard the Finance Committee member say that there have been some dollar amounts specifically in the Fire Department and Mr. Campana said his question is he doesn't care if it is the Fire Department, Health Code Officer or the Homeless, he wants to know what dollar amount, approximately, have you taken out of the proposed Operating Budget and put into separate Warrant Articles? Selectman Cook said when the Fire Department came in with the original request, requested budget, the original request was 49%, and Selectman Cook said he doesn't have a dollar figure exactly, but in going through the original request the Board noticed in their Operating Budget that they had some capital expenditures for equipment so the Board suggested that they take those capital expenditures and put them into the Capital Improvements Program like the Board feels that they should be. Selectman Cook said he does not know what the dollar amount is of that. Mr. Campana told Selectman Cook that he was partially answering his question, that the Board has taken dollar amounts out of the proposed Operating Budget and put them in separate Warrant Articles. Chairman McDonald said he is showing a list the Board had of \$21,778.00, 2003 equipment list to be added to the Capital Reserve, this is a revised budget, then the Board had supplies changed from equipment line down 4,770.00. Chairman McDonald said he is assuming that both of those lines are around \$26,000.00 and that is for the Fire Department. Mr. Campana said okay that is fine for the Fire Department and asked if there were any other areas in the Operating Budget where the Board has taken out some dollar amounts and put them in separate Warrant Articles? Selectman Cook said he does not think so. Selectman Cook told Mr. Campana that he thought he had meant from last years Operating Budget, did the Board take anything out and the only thing Selectman Cook could figure was the \$25,000.00 is the difference but yes, from the original request from the Fire Department, yes, the Board did ask them to put those into the Capital Improvements Program. Selectman Cook said he did not think there was any other department that had anything like that. Mr. Campana apologized to the Board for misleading them or not saying it the right

way. Mr. Bilodeau asked the Board on Article 22, are we changing that to read, Shall the Town raise and appropriate the non-transferable sum of **up to \$60,000.00** for the purpose of hiring a full time Planner for the Town to work under the Planning Board.

Chairman McDonald read Article 23, Shall the Town raise and appropriate up to the sum of \$45,000.00 for an updated Master Plan to be withdrawn from the Conservation Fund, or to take any other action in relation thereto? (by the Board of Selectmen. by the Finance Committee)

**Anticipated tax impact = .00.**

Selectman Bougher asked the Board if they ever found out that they can do that?

Mrs. Pat Myers- Mrs. Pat Myers stood up and said that is her question also. Chairman McDonald said that was proposed to DRA, he doesn't know if they got the response. Selectman Cook said before anything gets said and this is for your benefit too Mrs. Myers, that when did the Board start talking about this? Chairman McDonald said this was talked about a couple of months ago about removing it from the fund. Selectman Cook said this Board was asked the question do you think we can take \$45,000.00 from the Conservation Fund to update the Master Plan? Selectman Cook said the Board was going to check with DRA to find out the legalities of it and the Board has had discussions on and off on this since then so he understands that the Conservation Commission isn't aware of what the Board was doing, but he guesses in the Board's defense he doesn't know why the Conservation Commission hasn't been made aware of it because certainly they should have been. Selectman Cook said two ways of communication, one would be the Administrative Coordinator the other would be the ex-officio for your Board, so, this isn't something that the Board just thought up, this is something that the Board has been discussing for quite a while and he apologized to Mrs. Myers that she didn't know anything about it. Mrs. Myers said that was one issue that she had, but she did want to make it clear that she is 100% sure that the Board of Selectmen cannot expend from the Conservation Fund, that has to be done by the Conservation Commission, a majority vote of the Commissioners. Mrs. Myers said as far as whether it could be used to fund something like the Master Plan, she is slightly less sure of that, but she does know



that the RSA specifically refers to the activities that are defined as part of the Conservation Commissions charge, that those things can be funded from the Conservation Fund, although it is primarily used for the purchase of land and other supporting things for the purchase of land or easements. Mrs. Myers said that is primarily what it is used for by any other Town, and that is primarily what it is designed for. Mrs. Myers said she thinks it would be a real stretch and again she is 99.9%

sure of this, she thinks it would be a real stretch to put the Master Plan which is under the Planning Boards prerogative, not the Conservation Commissions, even though there are Conservation Commission related issues there, it would be a real stretch to say that you could fund that. Selectman Cook said that is why the Selectmen are getting an opinion from DRA and that is why the Board is putting it on the Warrant to get voter approval. Selectman Cook said if the townspeople come back and say they want to take \$45,000.00 out of the Conservation Fund it is their money. Selectman Cook said it might be advisory only, but if the townspeople come back and say, and the DRA allows it, the townspeople come back and say we want to take \$45,000.00 out of that fund, are you saying that the Conservation Commission wouldn't do that? Mrs. Myers said she would not support that because she thinks that would be, the Town voted to create the Conservation Fund for a specific reason, and as soon as you start chipping away at those specific reasons, you're defeating the whole purpose of the Conservation Fund. Mrs. Myers said as soon as you start saying that this is really important and maybe we can tie it to the Conservation so therefore we can pay for it out of the Conservation Fund. Selectman Wallace said the bottom line is, there is nothing wrong with having the Article on as far as he can see because if it passes DRA scrutiny then it is up to the Conservation Committee to decide whether they are actually going to do it or not and you have that right to do it or deny it even though the voters want it, that is up to you. Selectman Wallace said that if DRA says no you can't do it, then it is ineffective it just doesn't work. Mrs. Myers said she guesses that would be similar if the voters asked something from the Board of Selectmen and the Board of Selectmen denying it. Selectman Wallace said yes and Mrs. Myers said okay. Selectman Cook asked if the Commission had anything targeted for that money to Mrs. Myers. Mrs. Myers responded no and she said that was a big project for this coming year.

Mr. Bolton – Mr. Bolton said there was an interesting statement that caught his eye, \$45,000.00, the voters vote for it and by the same token if we go with the \$200,000.00 Petition Article what would be the chances of the Selectmen even if the voters voted for that and felt that it would be a good plan, is there any chance that the Board of Selectmen would actually allow that to happen? Selectman Reynolds said he did not think that they could go against that. Mr. Bolton said he was informed that once that money was returned, the Petition Article could not withdraw funds from the old way, which seemed to make sense. Selectman Wallace said he thinks he knows what Mr. Bolton is getting at and he may be right. Selectman Wallace said he thinks Mr. Boltons basic question is, can the Town force the Selectmen to spend money on something that the Selectmen, and Selectman Cook interrupted and said the Article is written basically to raise appropriate \$200,000.00 to put into the Conservation Fund and fund that through the General Fund, so if the voters vote yes for that, that means taking \$200,000.00 out of the General Fund and putting it into the Conservation Commission Fund. Mr. Bolton said he is just asking the question.

Pat Myers – Mrs. Myers said she is following up on what Mr. Bolton was saying and if she understood, Mr. Bolton was suggesting that the \$200,000.00 could be put in the Conservation Fund and then likewise the Conservation Fund could pay for the Master Plan update. Mrs. Myers would suggest instead the Selectmen consider taking that \$45,000.00 that is needed for the Master Plan out of that \$200,000.00. Selectman Bougher said it is a Petition Article and the Selectmen can't touch it. Mrs. Myers said it could be amended. Selectman Bougher said, yes, on the floor. Mrs. Myers said yes. It was decided that you cannot change the subject matter just the dollar amount.

Frank Campana – Mr. Campana said he needs to be corrected. Mr. Campana said he thinks the revenues from the Conservation Commission primarily are generated from land that is taken out of current use. Mr. Campana said he fails to see a strong connection between a Master Plan update and being funded this way from land that has been taken out of current use and secondly he thinks the Selectmen can tap into other areas, maybe the Town Forest account to fund something not quite related to the Town Forest and he thinks it is

a benefit to the Selectmen because it leaves them access to more money that could be related but not specific. Mr. Campana hates to think of this \$45,000.00 being taken out and it gets voted on and gets approved and then the next day the Conservation Commission needing \$170,000.00 to buy a nice piece of property for Conservation, it would put them in a bind, put the taxpayers at a loss for any conservation land and he thinks this Melvin Valley amount for \$200,000.00, was a wood property that was involved with that and he thinks it was separate from the Melvin Valley so he doesn't know if anybody, Conservation, Board of Selectmen still has an ongoing discussion with the people that were involved with the wood property that maybe they may want to still sell that to the Town and maybe the Town will take advantage of it but it would still be \$45,000.00 short. Selectman Cook said this was a suggestion of paying for the Master Plan, a onetime shot right here where they needed \$45,000.00 and Selectman Cook said he could see a connection because the Master Plan has everything to do with open space, conservation and he does not have a problem drawing a line between the two. Selectman Cook said he has not heard any discussion on what is planned for the \$168,000.00, he hasn't heard of any pieces of property that anybody is actually interested in so it was just if the voters vote for it and voted to do it, they're the ones and Mr. Campana interrupted and said just because you haven't heard of what might be slated for the \$170,000.00 shouldn't discourage you from building that account up to more because quite possibly \$170,000.00 won't buy a lot, we have just gone through the proposal of maybe 1 million dollars to buy a piece of property so you shouldn't hesitate to build that amount up because you may actually need it. Selectman Cook said he doesn't disagree with him. Selectman Wallace said he disagrees putting money into the Conservation Fund for just the heck of it and not having some land they wanted to purchase. Mrs. Myers said the Conservation Commission does not have a specific project that they are already working on, they have a list of some properties that they think are interesting and they also would be interesting in working with the folks who are on the Open Space Committee that did work with the Planning Commission last year to select some properties and she thinks there would be a lot of public input that they would be asking for because there are a lot of people in Town who have expertise in picking out properties that would be valuable to them, but the thing about the Conservation Fund that would be different from taking the money out of the General Fund is if they came upon property that the owner was willing to work with them, it was all set to go, the

Conservation Fund money can be spent on the vote of the Conservation Commission and a Public Hearing and with the Boards approval without having to have a Town Meeting. Selectman Wallace said that Mrs. Myers would like to have 1 million dollars in there. Mrs. Myers said yes. Selectman Wallace said so where do you stop? Selectman Wallace said he thinks one of the questions she asked the Conservation is what are your plans, what are your projects, what do you have for a long term plan and he thinks if that is not there he thinks that is where the issue is, if that is not there, why put money in there. Selectman Wallace said he understands Mrs. Myers wanting to have money in there but she has almost \$170,000.00 and that is going to go a little way. Mrs. Myers said that fund has only been created a couple of years and it is not as though they have had years and years to think about this.

Sherry Butt Dunham – Mrs. Dunham said that Mr. Cook said that the Board has discussed this before and she might not have caught when and she asked Selectman Cook if he remembered when the Board discussed this? Selectman Cook said he thought he brought it up at least a couple of months ago and when he brought it up it was during budget discussions and it was how about we tap the Conservation Fund, gee I don't know if we can do that, why don't we get an opinion from the DRA. Mrs. Dunham asked if it was during the budget discussion? Selectman Cook said, yes. Selectman Reynolds said he thinks it is important enough to make a straight forward article so when it does pass they will have the money to do the Master Plan. Selectman Wallace said he thinks it assumes you can change the value of Article 50 and you don't have that option, you can change the dollar amount of Article 23 but if you want to change it to come out of the General Fund we have to do that before the deadline. Selectman Wallace said let's just say we don't think the Conservation Committee will do it even if the voters say it, although he doesn't think that is true, but let's say okay we take it out of the General Fund, now we don't know if people are going to agree to reduce the amount of Article 50 and our argument is going to be to take \$245,000.00 out of the General Fund which leaves us fairly low as far as having a bank account to meet our bills and stuff. Selectman Reynolds thinks it would be hard to convince people to reduce the \$200,000.00. Selectman Wallace said he would say to leave Article 23 as it is then. The rest of

the Board agreed. Selectman Wallace said the Board can call DRA tomorrow and ask them for an opinion.

Pat Myers – Mrs. Myers said she thinks the way it could work at the Deliberative Session, Article 50 amount could be amended, \$200,000.00 minus the \$45,000.00. Selectman Cook said that is provided we have the support at the Deliberative to do that. Mrs. Myers said that shouldn't be hard to achieve because she thinks people would see the value of the Master Plan and want whatever to be done go into the Conservation Fund because that was originally for the Melvin Valley purchase, it would be killing two birds with one stone and she thinks people would support that as opposed to seeing none of the \$200,000.00 going into the Conservation Fund. Selectman Wallace said the Town is playing with fire here and he will tell her why. Selectman Wallace said that \$250,000.00 is going to bring it down to \$650,000.00 which is the reason the Board was originally going to give back \$200,000.00 to the Town to reduce taxation, but the Board realized when it went down so far that they could only do \$100,000.00. Selectman Wallace said the Board probably shouldn't have even done \$100,000.00 because it still left the Board lower than what they were comfortable with they did it. Mrs. Pat Myers said they could take \$200,000.00 out instead of \$250,000.00. Selectman Wallace told her she was assuming she could change it and he cannot make that assumption because he cannot do that when he is planning how this is going to change the Town.

Chris Hague - Mrs. Hague said that Conservation is very popular in this Town and at our last couple of meetings Conservation has been a subject of long discussions but she also thinks that a lot of people will support a Master Plan even if they had to pay for it, new funding, it is very desired, people really want a Master Plan. If you had to separate it from Conservation to avoid a politically sensitive area, she thinks you still could get it, if you sold it right.

Frank Campana - Mr. Campana said that Selectman Wallace brought up taking \$250,000.00, this little discussion you had about the General Fund and getting below. Mr. Campana said the Board told him earlier it was about \$950,000.00 and if you take the \$250,000.00 out of there it brings you to \$700,000.00. Selectman Wallace said earlier he used \$900,000.00 as a round figure not \$950,000.00 so that brought him to \$650,000.00. Mr. Campana said okay. Selectman Wallace told Mr.

Campana that the Board does not know what the exact number is, the \$200,000.00 went back in and a certain amount for overlay went in and there was \$65,000.00 that they had left over from this year but in fact, this Board has said that they are going to give that back to the Town to reduce taxation, so you either use that or you don't, so it is not an exact figure. Mr. Campana said he was not looking for an exact figure, but \$50,000.00 off, threw his number. Mr. Campana said the Board was missing things out of the General Fund a while back and asked if that still includes the potential of \$50,000.00 for the site cleanup?

Selectman Wallace said that is correct. Mr. Campana said we can take a potential another \$50,000.00 off the \$900,000.00? Selectman Wallace said no, we have \$900,000.00 without the \$50,000.00.

Chairman McDonald read Article 24, Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$55,650.82 to cover the first year's cost of a grounds maintenance person and related expenses needed to perform the work. Of the \$55,650.82 the sum of \$27,350.82 would represent the wages and benefits, \$11,500 would represent the equipment needed to perform the work, \$1,800 would represent the fuel and maintenance and \$15,000.00 for a one-ton truck, or to take any other action in relation thereto. Selectman Cook asked the Board how they were going to word this Article to take into account the \$30,000.00 that we have in the Budget? Selectman Cook said the \$55,650.82 is the total and the Board has approximately \$30,000.00 as the lawn care contract. Selectman Wallace asked the Board if it could be amended to say something like that, that \$25,000.00 would be new money and would add to your tax rate. Selectman Cook said he is not sure and the Board may need some help from DRA, but he would think that we would raise and appropriate \$25,000.00, the difference. Selectman Cook wants to make sure that nobody is mislead. Mr. Gene Bilodeau said the \$55,000.00 is the initial cost, if the initial cost, you already have \$30,000.00 and that is not going to change again in 2004, it would be less. Selectman Cook said they could actually take and raise the money just for the equipment. Selectman Wallace said they could raise and appropriate the money for the equipment and the existing \$30,000.00 would cover the salary. Selectman Cook said the Board can get some help between now and next Monday because they know what they need to accomplish so the Board can get some help from DRA with the wording of it.

Frank Bolton - Mr. Bolton said right now the \$30,000.00, that is the contracted rate. Mr. Bolton said we are paying \$27,350.82 that represents wages and benefits. Mr. Bolton said this is not a money saving thing. Selectman Cook said it will pay off in two years. Mr. Bolton said this is going to get you off the ground and work fine. Selectman Cook said the Town's contracts keep going up and as they acquire more ball fields, the Town needs to maintain these fields so it is either they are going to have higher contracts or they try to do something in house. Selectman Cook said he thinks they are looking at it in trying to satisfy some help needs with Mr. Carl Knapp and being able to maintain our own fields. Mr. Bolton said what the Board is trying to do is cover an existing problem and as they have increased ball fields and it takes increased equipment and increased labor, he would be surprised if they would ever catch up with what the private contracting can do. Mr. Bolton said it is very seldom when the public sector can compete with the private sector because communications is a dead end. Selectman Cook said he would give an example of when the schools went to outsource their maintenance. Selectman Cook said, now what are they back doing? Selectman Cook said it's in house now and there must have been a reason why it went back to in house. Mr. Bolton said it is more than a money issue that he thinks there are a lot of issues here. Mr. Bolton said right now we're in a position where Mr. Carl Knapp is running a very efficient department and we're going to see that come inefficient at some point in time. Selectman Cook asked Mr. Bolton why is that? Mr. Bolton said it is very seldom you see a department coming in at a 2% or 3%. Selectman Reynolds said there are various different reasons, when you go into the mowing, the athletic club and various sporting activities we work in enough mowing's to keep the fields satisfactory. Selectman Reynolds said you're talking mowings probably 6 months a year, the other six months you get opportunities for a staff member to either be utilizing the transfer station or any variety of different projects. Selectman Wallace said it is difficult enough to hire someone full time and to find someone part time that wants to work the transfer station could be very difficult. Chairman McDonald said the Board did have Mr. Carl Knapp do quite a bit of research for them to get the Board some numbers and the Board has talked to the Cemetery Trustees and have had some discussions with Weare Fire Department and PARC and the Board did not go into this blind, they went in fully informed and united in that decision. Selectman Bougher said we are doubling our fields, the Town

only owns 2 fields. Selectman Cook said that \$30,000.00 that they have in the Operating Budget for contracted services is very conservative, because if they wanted to do the mowings that the fields actually need, that figure could be up considerably.

Evelyn Connor - Mrs. Connor said that Mr. Carl Knapp is salary and it is not even coming up in this conversation. Mrs. Connor said Mr. Knapp put in like 96 hours a week ago for the same 40 hour salary and Mrs. Connor said we need that manpower and she does not know how the Board is going to get it. Mrs. Connor said Mr. Carl Knapp needs some manpower and one way or another the Board is going to have to find a way to give it to him because his hours are ridiculous for the position he is holding. The Board agreed with Mrs. Connor.

Chairman McDonald read Article 25, Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$300,783.00 to be added to the previously established Capital Reserve Funds as shown:

Computer System Fund	\$
8,000.00	
Highway Truck & Equipment Fund	\$179,000.00
Chase Park & Ballfield Improvement Fund	\$ 5,000.00
Cemetery Construction Fund	\$ 5,000.00
Fire Communication Fund	\$ 15,000.00
Employee Retirement and Accrual Fund	\$ 10,000.00
Trash Compactor Replacement Fund	\$ 5,000.00
Bridge Improvement Fund	\$ 5,000.00
Transfer Station Equipment	\$ 18,000.00
Police Communications	\$ 15,000.00
Police Vehicle	\$ 20,783.00
Recreational Field Development Fund	\$ 15,000.00

or to take any other action in relation thereto? (by the Board of Selectmen. by the Finance Committee)

**Anticipated tax impact = .**

Chairman McDonald said he would like to start with the Finance Department.



Chuck Metcalf - Mr. Chuck Metcalf asked the Board when they were going to take a vote on this. Selectman Cook asked Mr. Metcalf if the Finance Committee still wanted to reduce the Computer System Fund from \$8,000.00 to \$5,000.00 or something? Mr. Metcalf said they didn't really decide and they moved on. Selectman Wallace said that none of those purchases had anything to do with why this fund was setup. Selectman Reynolds said the Board wasn't even thinking about those purchases when they put that dollar amount in there. Selectman Wallace told the Finance Committee to keep into consideration that those two purchases didn't have anything to do with that fund.

Frank Bolton - Mr. Frank Bolton said in an effort to reduce this, maybe across the board 10% reduction should be suggested. Chairman McDonald asked Mr. Bolton if this could be brought up Wednesday evening at the meeting? Selectman Cook said that this Article is \$300,783.00 and it is down from last years which was \$413,000.00 and out of that \$413,000.00 the Board took \$200,000.00 out of the General Fund to offset it. Selectman Cook said even though this is only \$300,783.00 there is \$76,283.00 of new spending, new requests. Selectman Cook said if you backed out that and just compared last year to this year, last year was .59 cents and this year is .60 cents and that makes it up a penny. Selectman Cook said because there is new requests for additional equipment the total is .80 cents.

Frank Campana - Mr. Frank Campana said that he has a handout from last year of that same Article and in that Article there was a Fire/Rescue Vehicle Replacement Fund and that is missing in here. Selectman Cook said it is in the next Article. Mr. Campana said if that was in the Capital Reserve Funds for last year, why is it a separate Article this year? Selectman Bougher said because they withdrew money out enough of the account, special revenue and by law the Board has to do it that way. Chairman McDonald said that \$110,000.00 of this sum is in the form of the Capital Reserve Fund, and \$15,000.00 of it is accounted for to an Ambulance, so they have \$95,000.00 of this \$280,000.00 coming from what would be last years total. Mr. Campana said in Article 25 the Capital Reserve Fund, that can't be written if the Fire Rescue Vehicle were included? Selectman Wallace said it could be but he thinks it would be easier this way and make it more clear that that money was targeted to that one thing. Mr. Campana said it sends a message to him, the Board in a sense deflated the Capital Reserve

Fund Article by \$15,000.00. Mr. Campana said if the Board included the Fire and Rescue Vehicle in the Article like it had been in the past you would have increased that .60 cents by whatever proportion. Mr. Campana asked the Board if they took Article 26 out of Article 25 for clarification purposes? Selectman Bougher said, no, the Board took it out because of the withdrawal. Selectman Wallace said you don't have to do that technically. Selectman Wallace said you could put the \$280,000.00 in and then put the wording of the sum of, whatever that new figure would be. Selectman Cook said the Board also had discussion on this Warrant Article being too big where it wouldn't get passed at all, and one of the things that was discussed was the Fire Truck and the Equipment Fund would have to be out on its own Warrant Article because they would withdraw it from the Special Revenue Fund. Selectman Reynolds told Mr. Campana the Board did separate a lot of the Warrants based on whether they would do or whether they were over a certain dollar amount or whatever, it gives more choices and you have control on your vote. Mr. Campana said it does give more choices but if it is something that is actually needed it still should be in the Capital Reserve Fund Article whether that Article reads \$300,000.00 or whether it reads 1 million dollars. Selectman Reynolds said he agreed. Selectman Reynolds said the Board had discussions and went on back and forth.

**Article 26 was not read by Chairman McDonald** and the Article 26 reads, Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$280,000.00 to for the purchase of a Fire/Rescue Vehicle. Of the sum of \$280,000.00 the sum of \$170,000.00 will be withdrawn from the Fire Vehicle Replacement Revenue Fund, with the balance to be raised by taxation, or to take any other action in relation thereto.

Selectman Cook said he thinks the Board needs to word this so the Board is saying to raise and appropriate the sum of \$280,000.00 to be placed in the Fire and Rescue Vehicle Capital Reserve Fund because if they don't that \$15,000.00 for the Ambulance won't make it there. The Board agreed. Selectman Cook said it can be worded to raise and appropriate the sum of \$280,000.00, the sum of up to \$200,000.00 will be withdrawn from the Fire Vehicle Replacement Revenue Fund and the balance to be raised by taxation. The Board agreed.

Chairman McDonald read Article 27, Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$45,000.00, to be deposited into the Government Buildings and Maintenance Fund or to take any other action in relation thereto.

Mr. Gene Bilodeau told the Board he thought the Finance Committee had a discussion on that Article to reduce it down to \$25,000.00 and he thought there was an agreement that came about on that \$25,000.00. Chairman McDonald said he has down that the Finance Committee voted 6 to 2 to cut it back to \$25,000.00. The Finance Committee said they thought what was talked about was some of it was for improvements not for maintenance. Selectman Cook said there was some discussion that maybe they should look at what kind of use that is going to get, should they be investing and he thought the last figure he got was around \$88,000.00. Selectman Bougher said that was correct. Selectman Cook said the discussion centered around what are they going to be using it for? Selectman Cook said do they really need to spend \$84,000.00 this year on upgrading that second floor, which he thinks is a valid argument, so maybe that is something that they forgo. Selectman Cook read off some of the things that the Board had agreed on doing this year and they have \$38,000.00 in there now. Chairman McDonald said the net \$25,000.00 would give them \$63,000.00. Chairman McDonald said he was shocked that he was going to say he agrees with the Finance Committee. Selectman Bougher said he agrees too. Chairman McDonald said the Finance Committee made some good arguments about prioritizing and he looked at the previous Article that the Board just talked about the Fire Vehicle Replacement, they felt that was worthy and he appreciated that so he can buy into their judgement in prioritizing and maybe this \$63,000.00 is enough to get them by and he thinks the buildings are very important. Selectman Bougher said you can look at it two ways, this \$45,000.00 is not a magic number it can fluctuate. Chairman McDonald said the Finance Committee said that second floor for the Town Hall shouldn't be a priority right now they can get to the smaller projects now and by next year maybe they are going to have money left over from that \$63,000.00 and Chairman McDonald bought into that. Selectman Reynolds said he has no problem with that. Selectman Cook brought up the issue of the fire alarm and closure of the stairways. Selectman Wallace said there are a couple of things that have to be done this year. Selectman Wallace said they don't have to worry about the second floor

of the Town Hall or the electrical but the doors have to be changed and be weather tight because they can't allow the water to keep coming into the second floor as it is. Selectman Wallace said the doors by themselves will be between \$7,000.00 and \$10,000.00, so that brings them down to \$53,000.00, the oil tank for the Town offices has to be addressed and ballpark figure would be \$15,000.00 and that brings them down to \$38,000.00 and there are some roof problems for approximately \$5,000.00 which would leave \$33,000.00. Selectman Wallace told the Finance Committee these are all government buildings which include the gazebo, fire, highway, town hall, and the historic building and these are all included in the budget so it doesn't take long. The Board and the Finance Committee agreed to cut this Article back to \$25,000.00.

Chairman McDonald read Article 28, Shall the Town vote to establish an non-lapsing, non-transferable Capital Reserve Fund, under the provisions of RSA 35:1, to be known as the Building Department Vehicle Fund and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$4,000.00 to be placed in the Fund, and to designate the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend?

Chairman McDonald asked if anybody wanted to be heard on Article 28? Chairman McDonald said he thought that was already cutback by the Planning Board. Chairman McDonald said it started out at \$8,500.00 and the Planning Board did their thing and brought it down to \$4,000.00. Selectman Cook said the project total was \$17,000.00 and it was going to be \$8,500.00 in 2003 and \$8,500.00 in 2004 so it got cut in half to \$4,000.00 and \$4,000.00. Chairman McDonald said the Finance Committee recommended this one with a vote of 8 - 0.

Chairman McDonald read Article 29, Shall the Town vote to establish an non-lapsing, non-transferable Capital Reserve Fund, under the provisions of RSA 35:1, to be known as the Fire Equipment Fund and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$40,000.00 to be placed in the Fund, and to designate the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend?

Chairman McDonald asked if anybody wanted to be heard on this one? Chairman McDonald said the Finance Committee passed this one with a vote of 7 -1.

Chairman McDonald read Article 30, Shall the Town vote to establish an non-lapsing, non-transferable Capital Reserve Fund, under the provisions of RSA 35:1, to be known as the Police Equipment Fund and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000 to be placed in the Fund, and to designate the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend?

Chairman McDonald asked if anybody wanted to be heard on this one?  
Chairman McDonald said the Finance Committee passed this one with a vote of 5 – 3.

Chairman McDonald read Article 31, Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$5,000.00, for the purchase of Safety Complex Furniture of the sum of \$5,000.00 to be withdrawn from the General Fund, or to take any other action in relation thereto.

Chairman McDonald asked if anybody wanted to be heard on this one?  
Chairman McDonald said the Finance Committee voted on this one 8-0. They were against it. The Finance Committee couldn't see spending the money now, but waiting until the building was up. Selectman Wallace wanted to say that the Board of Selectmen has every intention that the Safety Complex building will be done in September 2003. Selectman Cook said it can be worded up to \$5,000.00 and maybe if there was any money left over at the end of the year they could use that money instead of this. The Board was in agreement.

Chairman McDonald read Article 32, Shall the Town vote to establish an non-lapsing, non-transferable Capital Reserve Fund, under the provisions of RSA 35:1, to be known as the Emergency Management Equipment Fund and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 to be placed in the Fund, and to designate the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend?

Chairman McDonald asked if anybody wanted to be heard on this one?  
Chairman McDonald said the Finance Committee voted 5 – 3 to move forward, so it was approved by Finance. Selectman Cook wanted everyone to know that this Emergency Management Equipment Fund, we're eligible for matching dollars and maybe get some grants, we previously have not been putting any money aside so this is an attempt to start a Capital Reserve Fund to show other parties that when they go to give us money they are looking to see how much money we put up, if we are serious or not.

Chairman McDonald read Article 33, Shall the Town vote to establish an non-lapsing, non-transferable Capital Reserve Fund, under the provisions of RSA 35:1, to be known as the Health Insurance Fund and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 to be placed in the Fund, and to designate the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend?

Chairman McDonald asked if anybody wanted to be heard on this?

Chairman McDonald said the Finance Committee voted 8-0 against this and asked the Finance Committee if they wanted to elaborate on how they came up with this? Mr. Gene Bilodeau said the Finance Committee thought that this was more or less a Budgetary item rather than a Capital Reserve item and that was the basis of the whole situation. The Board and the Finance Committee talked about this and the Finance Committee said there are a lot of what ifs and this could be one of the funds that is going to just grow and grow and not go anywhere. Selectman Bougher asked Mr. Bilodeau who said we're going to put \$10,000.00 every year? Selectman Bougher said that his whole purpose of this was to get it going and get enough in it to cover at least two people, maybe three. Selectman Bougher said that Mr. Carl Knapp's budget may be able to absorb it but when you take another department and take 2 people in and we saw it last year, we saw one go from 0 to double and that's not in the Default Budget either. Mr. Bilodeau said Selectman Bougher was talking about the Town Clerk's Office, and the adjustment was made and the budget was adjusted for that. Mr. Bilodeau said if you want to talk about the Police Department if you look at the Police bottom line you're looking at a budget that no matter what that budget read since 2001 they have always under spent their budget. Mr. Bilodeau said he is glad for the Police Department and they do it, so there is not a problem in that department and those are the two biggest departments that the Board is talking about that are full time workers, Mr. Carl Knapp's and The Police Department. Mr. Bilodeau said that this year the Police Department budget is \$747,000.00, in 2002 they have not spent more than \$560,000.00. Mr. Bilodeau said, you mean to tell me they can't afford another \$10,000.00 if they hired someone with a plan? Selectman Cook said again, the reason why the money is there is because of not being fully staffed. Mr. Bilodeau said the money was there in 2001 Selectman Cook. Selectman Cook said he understood that, he is just saying you can't really say it is their choice that they under spent, they under spent because they didn't have full staff as Mr.

Knapp has had that in budget. Mr. Bilodeau asked Selectman Cook how did Mr. Knapp come up with the money? Selectman Cook said because he wasn't fully staffed. Mr. Bilodeau said it was being explained to the Finance Committee, like we need it, we need it, we need it and what he is saying they're going to pass and we've been able to get along without that \$10,000.00. Selectman Cook said the Retirement Fund, that is an obligation that is a specific number and the Auditors told the Board that they have an obligation of about \$182,000.00 that if everybody was to quit, retire, whatever, that would be their obligation. Selectman Cook said the Auditors recommended that the Board of Selectmen start a fund because realistically they need a fund with \$182,000.00. Selectman Cook said maybe not \$182,000.00 but something in there so if they had a lot of people retiring or leaving they would be able to cover it. Selectman Bougher said he would take the same argument, we have an obligation to provide our employees with an insurance that they choose and this was one of the reasons he fought for this to be on there, because we have that obligation. Selectman Bougher said what are we going to do if somebody comes in and we look and we say oh, we're on Default Budget, she/he quit, well, I'm sorry we can't hire this next person unless they want a single. Selectman Bougher said is that how we are going to base our criteria? Selectman Cook said no. Mr. Bilodeau said he didn't think that would even happen whether you had the \$10,000.00 or not and that is his opinion only. Mr. Bilodeau said one of the things that has happened, the school committee, they had a pool where they had x amount of money and they just did away with their pool and they came up with a cap and right now it is like \$9,505.00 but they only capped it up to \$9,500.00 so anything over \$9,500.00 the teachers have to pay. Mr. Bilodeau told the Board that is just another alternative and there are probably many more out there. Selectman Reynolds said he wanted to cut Article 33 to \$5,000.00. Selectman Bougher said if you want to cut it to \$5,000.00 just take it out because it is not going to do us any good. Selectman Wallace said when you are providing lower than private sector salaries, that is how you get people to employee with you because you give them something like paid insurance. The Board agreed to keep the amount of Article 33 at \$10,000.00.

Chairman McDonald read Article 34, Shall the Town vote to establish an non-lapsing, non-transferable Capital Reserve Fund, under the provisions of RSA 35:1, to be known as the Revaluation Fund and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$25,000.00 to be placed in this Fund,

and to designate the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend?

Chairman McDonald said the Finance Committee endorsed it in a vote 7-1. Chairman McDonald said it is State mandate and they have to get going on it, they had the Assessor doing it and that has changed and they must address it. Chairman McDonald said that is where Finance finished up.

Chairman McDonald read Article 35, Shall the Town vote to establish an non-lapsing, non-transferable Capital Reserve Fund, under the provisions of RSA 35:1, to be known as the Economic Development Fund and to raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000.00 to be placed in the Fund, and to designate the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend?

Chairman McDonald asked if anyone wanted to be heard on this one?

Chairman McDonald said he thinks that originally this came down \$30,000.00 because the Planning Board went back and forth with this and cut it in half. Selectman Cook said in talking with Mr. Bill Stafford, a lot of this was for engineering and some architectural drawings, so the Planning Board felt that \$30,000.00 probably wouldn't slide at all so rather than putting in the \$30,000.00 they decided to put \$15,000.00 and that would get them some engineering, and at \$50.00/hr. he does not know how much that would buy them. Chairman McDonald said he believes this is the engineering studies to see what it is going to look like and the cost of the project as a whole. Mr. Bolton said the only issue that he has is you probably haven't seen a Town in the worst ice storm and the reflector markers ? are out there across from the Center Store, he doesn't care how much you spend over there until that is rectified the ice will remain. Selectman Cook said that some of the ideas that the Economic Development Committee was looking into was putting in sidewalks and putting sidewalks in would remove the markers that are there. Selectman Cook said the Board might need to just change the wording on this Article. Selectman Cook asked if it should be known as the Economic Development Fund or should it be Plan N.H.? Selectman Wallace said to put a note that says, known as the Economic Development Fund to be used for beautification of Weare Center. The Board agreed on that.

Chairman McDonald read Article 36, Shall the Town vote to raise and



appropriate the sum of \$238,000.00, for road reconstruction and resurfacing of roads. Of the \$238,000.00, the sum of \$207,055.35 would be received from Highway Block Grant Funds from the State of New Hampshire (Pursuant to RSA 235); with \$1,903.13 being an unexpended balance from the 2002 Highway Block Grant, and with the sum of \$29,055.35, to be raised by taxation, or to take any other action in relation thereto?

Chairman McDonald asked if anyone wanted to be heard on this one?

Selectman Cook asked Mr. Carl Knapp if he could give the Board a schedule of what he is doing. Mr. Knapp said he would provide the Board with a schedule. Mr. Knapp said a mile of paved road to be reclaimed and re-surfacing and approximately a mile of unpaved road to be paved. Selectman Cook asked what would be that one? Mr. Knapp said there are several that would have to be discussed and there are several that are close to being ready for pavement. Selectman Reynolds asked Mr. Knapp why wouldn't we want to just maintain existing roads rather than paving additional ones with the dollars? Mr. Knapp said that includes re-surfacing. Chairman McDonald said there is actually less maintenance on a paved road and a paved road can increase the overall value/inventory of the Town. Mr. Knapp said that the Town should be continuing to pave our unpaved roads and there is a lot of preparation work to do before you even get to the point of paving. Mr. Bolton said that this is probably an ongoing Article and asked how it was funded last year, what was put in last year. Chairman McDonald said it was similar, there was a large State Block Grant and the Board had \$229,000.00 for the sum of \$191,885.00 Highway Block Grant, \$5,379.00 unexpended balance and the sum of \$31,735.00 to be raised by taxation. Mr. Bolton asked what would happen if the Board eliminated the sum to be raised by taxation every year and just spent the Block Grant money? Mr. Knapp told Mr. Bolton it could be done. Selectman Cook said they would be further behind. Mr. Carl Knapp said they go behind every year on roadway because Weare is not doing what they need to be doing but we do what we can with the money we get.

Chairman McDonald read Article 37, Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$15,000.00 for cemetery improvements. This sum to be withdrawn from Cemetery Trust Funds as provided by RSA 31:22 a (cy pres), and to designate the Board of Cemetery Trustees as

agents to expend, or to take any other action in relation thereto? (by the Board of Selectmen, by the Finance Committee)

Chairman McDonald asked if anyone wanted to be heard on this one?

No one had any comment on this Article.

Chairman McDonald read Article 38, Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$13,000.00, to cover the costs of the Town's participation in two (spring and fall) local Hazardous Waste Collections on the year 2003? Of the sum of \$13,000.00 (\$6,500.00 each collection), the sum of \$3,888.00 which would be the total of \$1,944.00 per collection would be provided by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, Waste Management Division, on a per capita basis, as an after the completion offset to the costs of the project, and the sum of \$9,112.00 (\$4,556 each collection) to be raised by taxation, or to take any other action in relation thereto?

Chairman McDonald asked if anyone wanted to be heard on this one?

Chairman McDonald said from what he understands we are going from one to two this year because of the Towns population.

Chairman McDonald read Article 39, Shall the Town raise and appropriate the sum of \$16,700.00 to be added to the previously established Capital Reserve Funds known as the Cable Equipment Fund, or to take any other action in relation thereto?

Chairman McDonald said that this Article he believed that was \$10,000.00, we pulled out \$6,700.00 out of the Equipment line and added it to this Article. Selectman Reynolds said he thought the Board was going to redirect some of the revenue for this. Selectman Wallace said yes, that needs to be included. Selectman Cook said that means we have to take \$16,700.00 off our Revenue Sheet? The Board said yes.

Chairman McDonald asked if everybody was okay with Article 39?

Chairman McDonald said that Article 40 is going to be the Special Revenue - Police Fund. Chairman McDonald said that basically they are zeroing out their line and they are going to be writing up an Article

that is going to be like a pass through engineering, when money comes and money comes out, no need to mess up the budget trying to account for something. Chairman McDonald said it would be counted against the Police Budget, even though we are actually making 10% off it or something because the revenue was already in the General Fund.

Chairman McDonald read Article 41, Shall the Town raise and appropriate the non-transferable sum of \$6,000.00 for purpose of purchasing Fireworks for the 2003 Weare Patriotic Celebration, or to take any other action in relation thereto? (by the Board of Selectmen. by the Finance Committee).

### **Anticipated tax impact = 0.2**

Chairman McDonald asked the Finance Committee if they had any input on this one?

The Finance Committee said they had no input, they never voted on this one they never got that far.

Chairman McDonald read Article 42, Credit card payments.

Chairman McDonald basically this will enable the Town to collect their money a little simpler by credit card payment and charge an online fee. Chairman McDonald said basically the Town can collect car registrations and property taxes, etc. and he hasn't seen the final package written up yet. Mr. Bolton asked in order to let someone use a credit card the Town is going to charge them? The Board said yes, whatever percentage it is.

Chairman McDonald read Article 43, Shall we modify the elderly exemptions from property tax in the Town of Weare, based on assessed value, for qualified taxpayers, to be as follows: for a person 65 years of age up to 75 years, 35,000; for a person 75 years of age up to 80 years, 45,000; for a person 80 years and older 50,000. To qualify, the person must have been a New Hampshire resident for at least five years, own the real estate individually or jointly, or if the real estate is owned by such person's spouse, they must have been married for at least five years. In addition, the taxpayer must have a net income of not more than \$20,000.00 or, if married, a combined net income of less than \$30,000.00; and own net assets not in excess of \$50,000.00, excluding

the value of the person's residence.

Chairman McDonald said that this Article has been pretty much modified.

Chairman McDonald read Article 44, Shall the Town raise and appropriate the non-transferable sum of \$1,837.00 for the purpose of general maintenance and upkeep of the Town Forests, and to authorize the Board of Selectmen to withdraw the amount of \$1,837.00 for this purpose from the Town Forest Account, or to take any other action in relation thereto? (by the Board of Selectmen. by the Finance Committee)

**Anticipated tax impact = .00**

Chairman McDonald asked if anyone wanted to be heard on this one?

No one wanted to be heard.

Chairman McDonald made a motion that the Board of Selectmen continue the Public Hearing until January 20, 2003 at 6:45 p.m. Seconded by Selectman Reynolds. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman McDonald said that the Board discussed with Mrs. Evelyn Connor last week about her budget, what to include, what not and wanted to know how the Board ended up leaving it. Chairman McDonald said he spoke with Mrs. Connor and she is under the assumption the Board is putting a Warrant Article forward for her raise and tomorrow is the deadline. Selectman Reynolds said it was left that the Board was going to include her as part of the package like everybody else.

Mrs. Connor came back into the room and Chairman McDonald told her that the Board was discussing briefly about her Warrant Article. Chairman McDonald told Mrs. Connor that her raise is going to be included in that raise pool. Mr. Connor said that is true and she had stopped the Petition.

### **3. NONPUBLIC SESSION**

Chairman McDonald moved that the Board of Selectmen enter into Nonpublic Session at ? p.m. pursuant RSA 91-A:3 II (b) - the hiring of any person as a public employee. Seconded by Selectman Bougher. A roll call vote was taken. Selectman Bougher - yes; Selectman Reynolds - yes; Chairman McDonald - yes; Selectman Wallace - yes; Selectman Cook - yes. Motion passed unanimously.

In Attendance: Chairman McDonald, Selectman Wallace, Selectman Cook, Selectman Bougher, Selectman Reynolds, Mr. Carl Knapp.

? moved that the Board of Selectmen come out of Nonpublic Session at ? p.m. Seconded by ? A roll call vote was taken. Selectman Bougher - ?; Selectman Reynolds - ?; Chairman McDonald - ?; Selectman Wallace - ?; Selectman Cook - ?; Motion ?

Chairman McDonald made a motion that the Board of Selectmen hire Mr. David Hathaway as a full time truck driver for Mr. Carl Knapp at \$10.21/hr. Chairman McDonald said this is a position that is open because of a resignation recently. Seconded by Selectman Reynolds. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **4. OLD BUSINESS**

Safety Complex – Selectman Reynolds asked the Board if they were waiting for the final things to go out? Chairman McDonald said yes, and the Board got something in the Read File, and they have to watch the coins. Selectman Cook said the Board is waiting for Mr. Steve Burnell to give the Board the bid package. Selectman Cook said he would contact the Boards architect tomorrow.

Insurance Buyout – Chairman McDonald said he and Mr. Carl Knapp discussed an insurance buyout and they presently have the insurance buyout at \$3,000.00 for a family plan and the Benefit Review Committee has been kicking it around and Chairman McDonald fully endorses kicking it up to \$6,000.00 to encourage more people to come off the insurance rolls of 50% buyout. Chairman McDonald expressed to the Benefit Review Committee Mr. Knapp's interest and Mr. Knapp is thinking of doing it and Chairman McDonald wants this Boards opinion of whether or not they want to go with this. Mr. Knapp has agreed to be the guinea pig and Chairman McDonald really thinks that

benefits the Town to start to get a few more people off the insurance rolls if at all possible. Chairman McDonald said that his intention is to just get the ball rolling and get their guinea pig out there and say, hey we are offering this program, we already have one person who thought it had value and again Chairman McDonald is totally stuck just on the 50% savings, not the 50% buyout on this insurance plan. Chairman McDonald said the Town's insurance has gone up the last couple of years and who knows when that is going to reign itself in and he thinks that is a way to kind of address that and wants the Boards input. Chairman McDonald told the Board if they were interested in this they would have to decide of how to implement it. The Board agreed to have it done quarterly with the first payment being as soon as it is in effect. The Board will discuss this further at another meeting.

Rod Cotter Bridge – Mr. Carl Knapp told the Board that the Rod Cotter Bridge is out to bid and bids should be opening by the end of the month with hopefully an early spring construction date and it is going along really well. Mr. Knapp said he just has a couple of details to take care of, one is an easement for setup and for Public Service to move some wires.

ZBA – Chairman McDonald said he received a call from Mr. Forest Esenwine who said the Zoning Board is looking for the Board of Selectmen's approval, they need to send a letter they got from Thibeault Gravel operation to Mr. Bill Dreschner about they came before the Board of Selectmen, kicked it back to the ZBA, they agreed with Mr. Everett Stone's appeal, so now the paper work is going back and forth and they want to make sure everything is done properly. Chairman McDonald said the letter the ZBA received from Thibeault Gravel didn't reference the right appeal process so they want to get Mr. Dreschner involved in this. The Board agreed to give the ZBA their approval. Chairman McDonald asked Mrs. Merry Rice to contact Mr. Esenwine and tell him to get in touch with Mr. Dreschner.

Reorganization Plan – Chairman McDonald said the Board has been discussing the Reorganization Plan a few times and he wanted to throw something at the Board that he has been thinking about to improve the operation of the Selectmen's Office. Chairman McDonald would like to see the Board take this office and cut it back to two Department Heads. Chairman McDonald said this 7 Department Heads, 3 workers, he does

not see this thing working. Chairman McDonald said we have our Assessor, he is resigning, we have a new position coming into play from the Assessing point of view. Chairman McDonald said he has talked to a few people before he presented this to the Board to explain his reasoning. Chairman McDonald said he cannot see a realistic idea for this building having more than one Department Head upstairs and one Department Head downstairs, tying everything around where each Department will be accountable for their own budget, but he thinks it will be healthy to establish some kind of pack in order. Selectman Cook said he would like to see when the Board is in the process of hiring the Assessor that the Board looks for someone who is qualified that could run the whole Land Use Department, Tax Collector, Building Department and have it all rolled into one. Selectman Wallace said he likes Chairman McDonald's plan. Chairman McDonald told the Board this will eliminate the potential for conflict and get this running a little more cleanly. Chairman McDonald will bring his plan in next week and the Board will discuss it more in full.

## **5. NEW BUSINESS**

Fire Department – Selectman Cook brought up the memo from Mrs. Sue Tuthill of the Fire Department to the Board. Selectman Cook read the letter which said, as you are aware the Fire Department did not budget for lawn care for the year 2003, due to a plan to use the Public Works for this. Selectman Cook said he does not remember telling anyone not to budget. Chairman McDonald said he thinks the Board told them to put it back in. Selectman Cook is trying to get clarification from the Board on this memo. Selectman Reynolds noticed lawn care was zeroed out on the back page of the Fire Departments budget.

Minutes Transcriber – Selectman Cook said he received a memo from Mrs. Donna Matheson regarding the Minutes Transcriber. Selectman Cook said Mrs. Matheson has found somebody from the High School that has been doing the School Boards Minutes that would be very interested in doing the Board of Selectmen's Minutes at \$10.00/hr. Selectman Cook said that person would come in take the minutes, transcribe them and get them back to the Board. Selectman Bougher asked the Board if they think they should act on this as a temporary basis right now? The Board of Selectmen were in agreement to have someone come in on a temporary basis, to take the minutes of next

Monday's Board of Selectmen's Meeting to see how it works out.

Manifests- Chairman McDonald moved to authorize the Board of Selectmen to sign manifests and order the Treasurer to sign checks dated January 16, 2003 with accounts payable of \$573,650.55 and gross payroll of \$32,207.43 for a combined total of \$605,857.98. Seconded by Selectman Bougher. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Summer Camps – Chairman McDonald told the Board he talked to the Police Chief, Mr. Myles Rigney, today about joining the PARC Commission and setting up a Summer Youth Camp in Chase Park and Chief Rigney has found an access to some Grants and buy equipment for Summer Camps etc. Chairman McDonald said that Chief Rigney would like to join the PARC Committee and wants to address the Board as to whether or not they think this is proper and whether or not they submit it to PARC or are we just as one? The Board had no problem with this.

Chairman McDonald made a motion for the Board of Selectmen to appoint Chief Myles Rigney to the whatever opening is available whether it full time or alternate to the PARC Committee. Seconded by Selectman Bougher. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Selectman Cook made a motion for the Board of Selectmen to direct all Boards and Commissions to televise their meetings unless there is a conflict of using the Selectmen's conference room. Seconded by Chairman McDonald. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

CD for Bond – Chairman McDonald said the Board has to vote to have this CD for the Bond of Mr. Elmer Schmidt revolving around a couple of different sections of a gravel pit and the Board needs to vote to give him the authorization to combine both the \$13,000.00 and \$9,000.00 CD's/Bond into one.

Chairman McDonald made a motion for the Board of Selectmen to allow Mr. Elmer Schmidt Provocable Trust to combine their two passbook CD's into one. Seconded by Selectman Reynolds. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously. The Board was in agreement to check the plan to make sure the amounts are correct and Chairman McDonald asked Mrs. Merry Rice to get a little more information on



this and Chairman McDonald will contact Mrs. Rice tomorrow about it.

## **6. NONPUBLIC SESSION**

Selectman Wallace made a motion that the Board of Selectmen enter into Nonpublic Session at ? p.m. pursuant to the authority granted in RSA 91-A3 II (c). Seconded by Chairman McDonald. A roll call vote was taken. Selectman Bougher – yes; Selectman Reynolds – yes; Chairman McDonald – yes; Selectman Wallace – yes; Selectman Cook – yes. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman McDonald said the Board would be in Nonpublic Session for a short time and then the Board would be adjourning and the Board would see everyone next week.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairman McDonald moved to adjourn at ? p.m. Seconded by Selectman ?. A vote was taken. Motion

.  
A True Record.

---

Merry Rice, Secretary

